

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: AF/W:RAMCGUIRE:JWM

APPROVED BY: AF/W:TWMSMITH

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R 272202Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

UNCLAS STATE 265201

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NY 4683 ACTION SECSTATE 23 OCT 1976

QUOTE UNCLAS USUN 4683

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, EAID, SWEL, CV

SUBJ: SYG WALDHEIM APPEAL FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR CAPE
VERDE

USUN 4077

1. AS THE DEPARTMENT WAS FOREWARNED IN REFERENCE, SYG
WALDHEIM HAS NOW FORMALLY ISSUED AN EMERGENCY APPEAL URGING
GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS TO ASSIST
CAPE VERDE IN MEETING ITS URGENT FOOD AND DEVELOPMENT
REQUIREMENTS.

2. A COPY OF THE SYG'S THIRD PARTY APPEAL NOTE ADDRESSED
TO THE US PERMREP DATED OCTOBER 18, 1976 IS QUOTED
BELOW AS PARAGRAPH THREE OF THIS TELEGRAM:

SIR,

ON 26 MARCH 1975, I APPEALED TO YOUR GOVT TO ASSIST IN
MEETING EMERGENCY NEEDS OF REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE, ARISING
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FROM A DISASTROUS AND PROLONGED DROUGHT. AT SAME TIME, I

COMMENTED THAT "THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE FACT THAT RELIEF MEASURES WILL BE ESSENTIAL UNTIL END OF 1977". RESPONSE TO THAT APPEAL BY VARIOUS GOVTS AND ORGANIZATIONS HAS BEEN GRATIFYING. IN LAST TWO YEARS IT HAS ENABLED GOVT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF POPULATION, AND TO INITIATE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT.

HOWEVER, PRESIDENT OF CAPE VERDE HAS INFORMED ME THAT ECONOMIC SITUATION HAS NOT IMPROVED AND THAT RECENT CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN HIS COUNTRY HAVE BEEN SO ADVERSE THAT THERE WILL BE VIRTUALLY NO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN ISLANDS DURING COMING YEAR, 1977, DESPITE STRENOUS EFFORTS ON PART OF INHABITANTS TO STIMULATE LOCAL PRODUCTION IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY.

SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES EXIST TO FEED POPULATION UNTIL END OF THIS YEAR, BUT IN 1977 GOVT HAS INDICATED THAT FOLLOWING DEFICITS WILL ARISE:

MAIZE 36,000 TONS SUGAR 4,500 TONS
BEANS 11,000 TONS POWDERED MILK 3,500TONS
RICE 4,000TONS MEAT 3,000 TONS
WHEAT 2,000 TONS VEGETABLE OIL 2,000TONS
BUTTER 200 TONS

IN ADDITION TO THESE FOOD REQUIREMENTS, IT WILL ALSO BE NECESSARY TO MEET TRANSPORTATION COSTS, ESTIMATED AT SOME US\$6.5 MILLION.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF UN (FAO) FULLY SHARES MY CONCERN WITH GRAVITY OF FOOD SITUATION IN COUNTRY AND IS ASSOCIATING HIMSELF WITH THIS APPEAL. FURTHERMORE, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM GOVT OF CAPE VERDE HE IS APPROVING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) CONSISTING OF 5,000 TONS OF MAIZE, 500 TONS OF VEGETABLE OIL AND 500 TONS OF DRIED SKIM MILK. LATTER IS DESTINED PRIMARILY TO FEED 60,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN.

IN ADDITION, WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME INTENDS TO SHIP, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BALANCE OF COMMODITIES UNDER ON-GOING WFP
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PROJECTS, REPRESENTING SOME 8,600 TONS, ALMOST ALL OF WHICH WILL BE MAIZE. GRANTING OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND SHIPMENT OF COMMODITIES FROM WFP'S ON-GOING ACTIVITIES CAN ONLY PARTIALLY ALLEVIATE CRITICAL FOOD SITUATION IN COUNTRY.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND I THEREFORE HOPE THAT GOVTS AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS WILL DO THEIR BEST TO PROVIDE

BALANCE OF CAPE VERDE GOVTS ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, BEARING IN MIND TIME REQUIRED TO ORGANIZE PROVISION OF THESE EMERGENCY SUPPLIES, AND TO TRANSPORT THEM TO CAPE VERDE. CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE MADE THROUGH UN OR WFP, OR BILATERALLY. THEY WILL BE WELCOMED EITHER IN CASH OR IN KIND.

I SHOULD ADD THAT GOVT OF CAPE VERDE, ASSISTED BY ORGANIZATIONS IN UN SYSTEM AND INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL DONORS, IS CONTINUING TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO RESOLVE ITS BASIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN FRAMEWORK OF MID-TERM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS. FAO, IN CO-OPERATION WITH UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, IS ASSISTING IN A NUMBER OF PROJECTS DEALING WITH REAFFORESTATION, SOIL CONSERVATION AND FOOD CROP PRODUCTION. IT IS ALSO SEEKING DONOR SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS DEALING WITH LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION. INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES FOR IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL FISHERIES ARE TO BE EXPLORED IN NEAR FUTURE.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY BE REQUIRED BY MEMBER STATES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IN PRAIA OR FROM OFFICE OF CO-ORDINATOR OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME TO CAPE VERDE AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NY.

ACCEPT, SIR, ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

KURT WALDHEIM SYG

SCRANTON UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FOOD ASSISTANCE, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE265201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/W:RAMCGUIRE:JWM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760402-0130
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761012/aaaaajsg.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYG WALDHEIM APPEAL FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR CAPE VERDE USUN 4077
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, CV, UN
To: DAKAR
BISSAU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006